

traveled to Columbus, Adams County, Illinois, and early in March, 1839, he and members of his family were baptized by Elder James Tomlinson at Nauvoo, Illinois. After joining the Church, Moses and his family returned to Lee, Iowa. During this period he met persecution along with the rest of the saints, losing his mercantile business and other possessions. Moses, along with his father, Joshua, and his son, Clinton, had the privilege on several occasions to act as a bodyguard for the Prophet Joseph Smith.

On June 29, 1849, Moses was ordained a Seventy by Elder Joseph Young. On December 30, 1845, he and Elvira were sealed to each other, along with other members of their family, in the Nauvoo Temple.

They moved to Van Buren, Iowa, then to Council Bluffs. In 1853, Moses, Elvira and the unmarried children moved to Utah Valley, settling at Lehi, where he had charge of the toll gate at Jordan Narrows for about a year. Their last child was born there.

From Lehi they moved to Provo, where Moses taught school several years. He had his feelings hurt through a misunderstanding with a leader in the Church, which he couldn't bring himself around to forgiving. This caused him to lose the gift he had been blest with from the time of his conversion, that of speaking in tongues. He quit teaching school and moved to the mouth of Provo Canyon as toll keeper. Here he planted an orchard and garden. The young trees just started to bear when a flash flood cut a channel through his lot. The farm and destroyed most of it.

This experience humbled him and gave him the spirit of forgiveness, thus helping him to become happy again. His health was very poor the last years of his life. A few nights before his death he told his daughter Martha that she could speak in tongues if she desired, which she did immediately, strengthening the testimony of the family.

WILLIAM OSCAR MECHAM AND ETHEL SUMMER MECHAM

William Oscar Mecham was born April 13, 1891, son of Lewis Lafayette and Sarah